# Defense Information Infrastructure (DII) Common Operating Environment (COE)

User's Manual (UM) for the METCAST Server (MCSRVR) Segment Release 3.1 Series

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# 1 SCOPE

#### 1.1 IDENTIFICATION

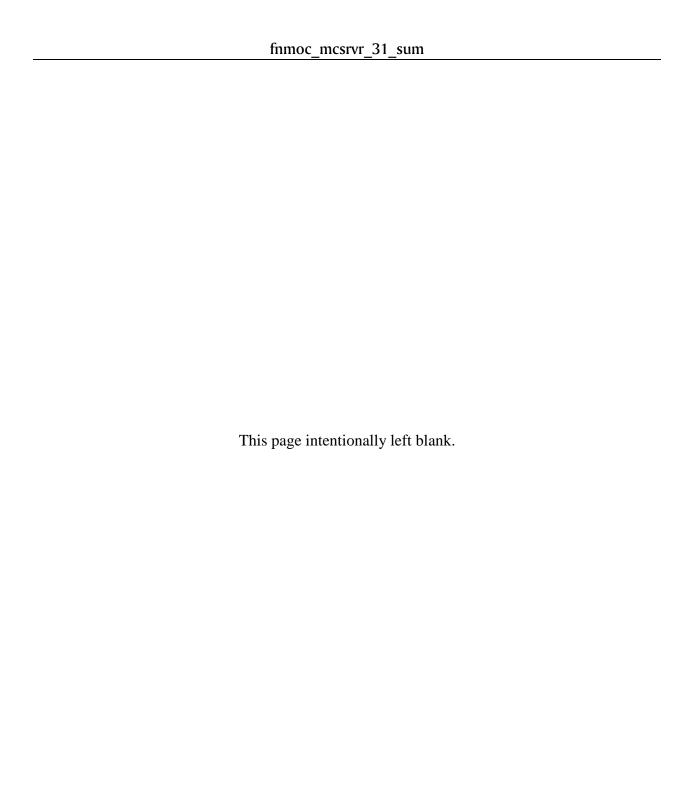
This Software User Manual (SUM) describes the use of the METCAST Server (MCSRVR) Segment of the METCAST data distribution software, Release 3.1 Series, developed by Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC), Monterey, CA. This software is designed to run under the Defense Information Infrastructure (DII) Common Operating Environment (COE), release 3.1 or higher. The software runs under the following hardware and operating systems:

- Sun Enterprise 250 or higher computer running the Sun Solaris operating system, release 2.5.1 or higher.
- Tactical Advanced Computer, TAC-3 (HP 750/755)/TAC-4 (HP J210), or HP K570 or higher running the HP-UX operating system, release 10.20 or higher.

This document has been developed in accordance with the DII COE Developer Documentation Requirements, Version 2.0.

#### 1.2 SYSTEM OVERVIEW

METCAST is a standards-based, request-reply and subscription (channel) system for distributing meteorological and oceanographic (METOC) and other information over the Internet using Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME). The METCAST Client provides a graphical user interface (GUI) for requesting METOC data and specifying the timing and frequency of retrievals, and for subscribing to "channels", which are conduits for any type of information. The METCAST Server Segment is responsible for processing requests for data from METCAST Clients, interfacing with a database to attempt to satisfy each request, and formatting the retrieved data as specified in the request before returning the data to the client. The METCAST Client comprises a separate segment.



## 2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

#### 2.1 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

DDR-2 Defense Information Infrastructure (DII) Common Operating 23 January 1998 Environment (COE) Developer Documentation Requirements, Version 2.0, Defense Information Systems Agency, Joint Operability and Engineering Organization Unnumbered Software Requirements Specification for METCAST, Space 15 June 1998 and Naval Warfare Systems Command, Environmental Systems Program Office (SPAWAR PMW-185), San Diego, CA fnmoc\_MCSRVR\_IP\_31Series *Installation Procedures (IP) for the METCAST Server* 23 April 1999 (MCSRVR) Segment, Release 3.1 fnmoc\_MDCHNL\_IP\_11Series Installation Procedures (IP) for the METOC Channels 23 April 1999 (MDCHNL) Segment, Release 1.1 fnmoc\_MDCHNL\_SVD\_1100 Software Version Description (SVD) for the METOC 23 April 1999 Channels (MDCHNL) Segment, Release 1.1.0.0 fnmoc\_MDMETC\_IP\_11Series *Installation Procedures (IP) for the METOC Observations* 23 April 1999 Database (MDMETC) Segment, Release 1.1 fnmoc\_MDMETC\_SVD\_1100 Software Version Description (SVD) for the METOC Observations Database (MDMETC) Segment, Release 23 April 1999 1.1.0.0 fnmoc\_METCAST\_IP\_11Series Installation Procedures (IP) for the METCAST Client 23 April 1999 Segment, release 1.1 fnmoc\_METCAST\_UM\_1100 *User Manual (UM) for the METCAST Client Segment,* 23 April 1999 release 1.1 fnmoc\_METCAST\_SVD\_1100 Software Version Description (SVD) for the METCAST 23 April 1999 Client Segment, Release 1.1.0.0 ipd4400magridipTES-10 Installation Procedures (IP) for the Grid Field Application 29 January 1999 Program Interface (API) Segment (MAGRID) of the Tactical

Environmental Support System (Next Century) [TESS(NC)] Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC) Database

ipd4400mdgridipTES-10 29 January 1999	Installation Procedures (IP) for the Grid Field Database Segment (MDGRID) of the Tactical Environmental Support System (Next Century) [TESS(NC)] Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC) Database
ipd4200malltipTES-10 9 October 1998	Installation Procedures (IP) for the Latitude-Longitude-Time (LLT) Observations Application Program Interface (API) Segment (MALLT) of the Tactical Environmental Support System (Next Century) [TESS(NC)] Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC) Database
ipd4300mdlltipTES-10 9 October 1999	Installation Procedures (IP) for the Latitude-Longitude-Time (LLT) Observations Database Segment (MDLLT) of the Tactical Environmental Support System (Next Century) [TESS(NC)] Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC) Database
ipd4200maimgiptes-10 9 October 1998	Installation Procedures (IP) for the METOC Imagery Application Program Interface (API) Segment (MAIMG) of the Tactical Environmental Support System (Next Century) [TESS(NC)] Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC) Database
ipd4400mdgridipTES-10 9 October 1999	Installation Procedures (IP) for the METOC Imagery Database Segment (MDIMG) of the Tactical Environmental Support System (Next Century) [TESS(NC)] Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC) Database
Unnumbered 3 May 1999	Installation Manual for the Regional Center System, Revision D

# 2.2 NON-GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

None.

## 3 SOFTWARE SUMMARY

#### 3.1 SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION

METCAST allows a user to define data requirements (areas of interest, data requirements for each area, and frequency with which data are required for each area) and "subscribe" to the required data. Once a subscription is updated, the specified server will automatically update the data at whatever interval the user has specified. In simpler terms, the user sends the server a "wish list" of data requirements, and the server retrieves the data from its local database and sends it to the client as often as the user wishes.

The METCAST Server segment is responsible for receiving and decoding user requests (including those for data delivered through channels), retrieving the requested data from the database, packaging it for transmission, and returning it to the requester via HTTP. The METCAST Server segment also includes an HTML-based interface for setting up and configuring new channels.

#### 3.2 SOFTWARE INVENTORY

A complete inventory of the METCAST Client software is contained in the Software Version Descriptions for the METCAST Server (MCSRVR) Segment, METOC Channels (MDCHNL) Segment, and METOC Observations Database (MDMETC) Segment, listed in Section 2.1.

## 3.3 SOFTWARE ENVIRONMENT

A complete description of the software environment, and a list of manuals provided with the METCAST Server Segment software, are contained in Software Version Descriptions for the METCAST Server (MCSRVR) Segment, METOC Channels (MDCHNL) Segment, and METOC Observations Database (MDMETC) Segment, listed in Section 2.1.

# 3.4 SOFTWARE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OVERVIEW

The METCAST Server software consists of three segments:

- 1. MDCHNL The METOC Channels segment. This segment contains the Channels database schema and CGI scripts to access channels data.
- 2. MDMETC The METOC Observations database segment. This segment contains the Observations database schema and CGI scripts to access observation data.

3. MCSRVR – The METCAST Server segment. This segment consists of CGI scripts and code to process requests, package and return data, access and maintain the TEDS, Channels, and Observations databases, and maintain logs of all actions. The Server segment also communicates with the Retriever from the Client segment, passing it status information as well as retrieved data.

The METCAST Server segment interfaces with the Tactical Environmental Data Server (TEDS), Release 4.1 or higher, to retrieve gridded and observation data. The following TEDS segments must be installed before METCAST Server is installed:

- MAGRID Grid Field Data API Segment
- MDGRID Grid Field Data Database Segment
- MALLT Latitude-Longitude-Time Observation API Segment
- MDLLT Latitude-Longitude-Time Observation Database Segment
- MAIMG METOC Imagery Data API Segment
- MDIMG METOC Imagery Database Segment

Installation procedures for these segments are listed in Section 2. Note that TEDS also requires installation of Informix on the server.

When a request is scheduled, the METCAST Client formulates a request message and forwards it via HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) to the server(s) from which the data are requested. The METCAST Server checks its databases to find out whether it has any new data to fill the request. If not, it returns a message to that effect. If there is new data, the server extracts the data from its database(s), packages it, and returns it to the client.

## 3.5 MODES OF OPERATION

This section is tailored out.

## 3.6 SECURITY AND PRIVACY

There are no security and privacy considerations peculiar to the METCAST Server segments.

## 3.7 ASSISTANCE AND PROBLEM REPORTING

The point of contact for assistance and problem reporting is:

Mr. Dave Huff Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center 7 Grace Hopper Avenue Monterey, CA 93943

Phone: (831) 656-4569

E-mail: <a href="mailto:huff.david@metnet.navy.mil">huff.david@metnet.navy.mil</a>

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## 4 ACCESS TO THE SOFTWARE

#### 4.1 SOFTWARE SETUP

#### 4.1.1 Installation on DII COE Systems

Installation and initial configuration of the MCSRVR software on DII COE systems are covered in the Installation Procedures for the METCAST Server (MCSRVR) Segment, METOC Channels (MDCHNL) Segment, and METOC Observations Database (MDMETC) Segment, referenced in Section 2.1. This procedure uses the DII COE Installer software.

#### 4.1.2 Installation on Non-DII COE Systems

Installation and initial configuration of the MCSRVR software on non-DII COE Sun Solaris systems are covered in the Regional Center Installation Manual, referenced in Section 2.1. This manual covers installation and configuration of Informix, which is necessary for the METCAST Server installation, and installation and configuration of METCAST Server and the web server from a TAR file.

#### 4.1.3 Familiarization

METCAST Server is designed as a "start it and forget it" process. Once started, it continues to run as long as the system stays up, receiving and processing requests from METCAST Clients. There are few user interactions required, although a web-based GUI is provided for administering channels.

#### 4.1.4 Access Control

To start a METCAST Server session on DII COE installations, you must be able to log in as sysadmin. Generally this action is performed by the System Administrator, who also controls granting of the sysadmin password.

#### 4.2 INITIATING A SESSION

In non-DII COE installations, the installation procedure installs startup scripts that automatically start METCAST Server each time the system is restarted. To start METCAST Server in DII COE installations, start the system, log in as sysadmin, and open the **Network** menu on the menu bar. Select the **Servers** option, then **Metcast Server** under the Servers submenu. Select **Start All Decoders** to start the METCAST decoders, then **Publish Dynamic Product List** to publish the product list (a list of data that is present on your server, which is published to all clients that subscribe to your server). This completes the server startup process.

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## 4.3 STOPPING AND SUSPENDING WORK

To stop the server in a DII COE installation, log in as sysadmin, pull down the **Network** menu, select **Servers**, then **Metcast Server**, and select **Stop All Decoders** from the Metcast Server submenu. This stops the decoders, which essentially turns off the server.

## 5 METCAST SERVER PROCESSING GUIDE

As previously mentioned, the operation of METCAST Server is largely transparent to the user and requires almost no user interaction. Information concerning the server's operations is sent to logs that can be reviewed by Systems Administrators and/or software engineers if problems arise. The only true user interface is the Channels Administration interface, which is described below.

### 5.1 ADMINISTERING METCAST CHANNELS

METCAST Server provides a web browser-based interface for administering channels. This interface allows an approved user to create new channels, assigning MIME types and user permissions to them, to modify existing channels, and to delete channels. Each of these functions is described below. To start the Channel Administration interface, start the browser and navigate to the site on your server in which the Channel Administration main page is installed.

#### 5.1.1 Creating a New Channel

The Channel Administration page provides two interfaces for creating a new channel – the Channel Wizard, which walks the user step by step through the process, and a manual method where you simply enter all of the channel parameters on a form.

#### 5.1.1.1 The Channel Wizard

The Channel Wizard provides step-by-step instructions for setting up a new channel. When the Channel Wizard button is clicked, the first channel definition screen is displayed:

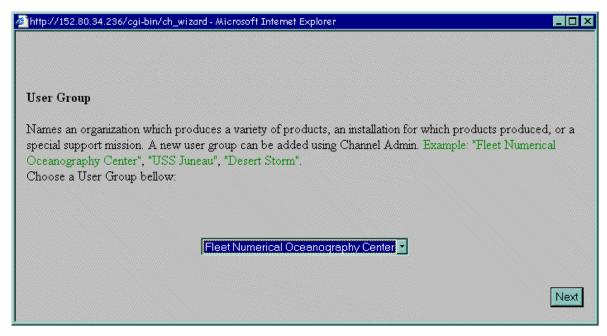


Figure 1. Channel Wizard Opening Screen

This screen is used to select a User Group. To open the list of user groups that are available, click on the down-pointing arrowhead next to the list box. Clicking any item in the list selects it, closes the list box, and displays the new selection in the box. Click the **Next** button to continue with the Wizard. To add a new user group, you must go back to the main Channel Admin page (use the browser's **Back** button) and use the **Add** button under the **User Group** heading (see Section 5.1.2 for details).

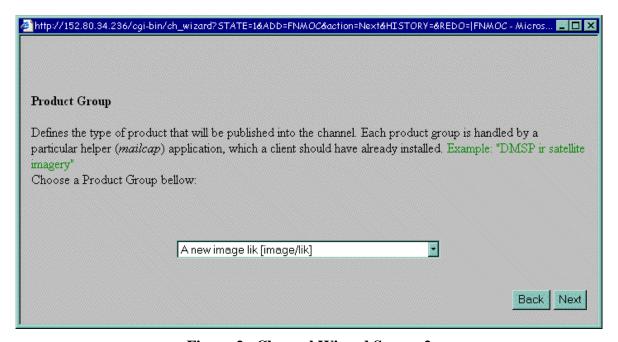


Figure 2. Channel Wizard Screen 2

The second screen of the Wizard, shown in Figure 2, is used to select a Product Group. Pull down the Product Group list and select any item. Click the **Next** button to proceed to Screen 3, or the **Back** button to return to the opening screen. To add a new product group, you must go back to the main Channel Admin page (use the browser's **Back** button) and use the **Add** button under the **Product Group** heading (see Section 5.1.4 for details).

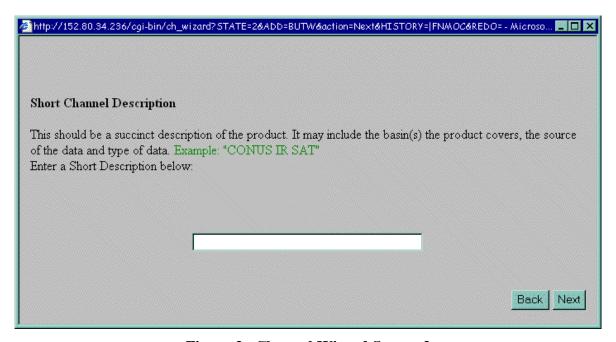


Figure 3. Channel Wizard Screen 3

The third screen of the Wizard is used to enter a short description of the channel. Just type the description into the text entry box. Click on the **Next** button to proceed to the next screen, shown in Figure 4, or the **Back** button to return to Screen 2.

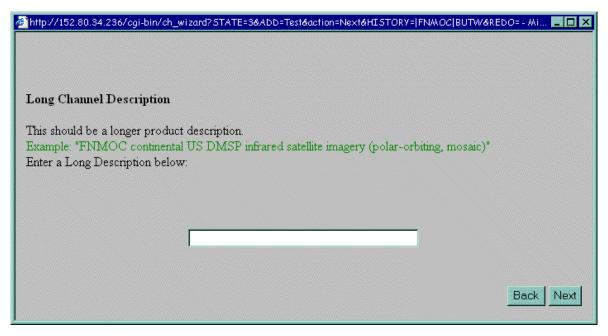


Figure 4. Channel Wizard Screen 4

This screen is used to enter the full channel description. Simply type the description into the text entry box. Click on the **Next** button to proceed to the next screen, shown in Figure 5, or the **Back** button to return to Screen 3.

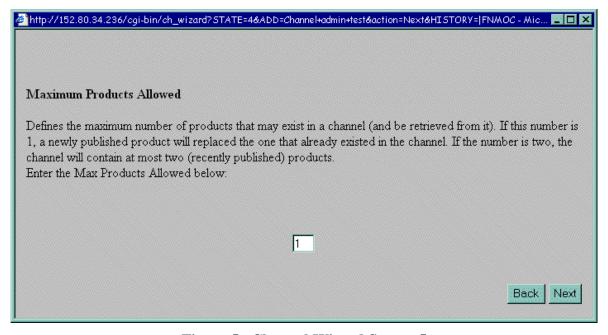


Figure 5. Channel Wizard Screen 5

This screen allows the user to specify the maximum number of products that may exist in the channel. Setting this number to a low value reduces the amount of disk space used to store the channel data; higher values require more disk space. Type the desired number in the entry box.

Click on the **Next** button to proceed to the next screen, shown in Figure 6, or the **Back** button to return to Screen 4.

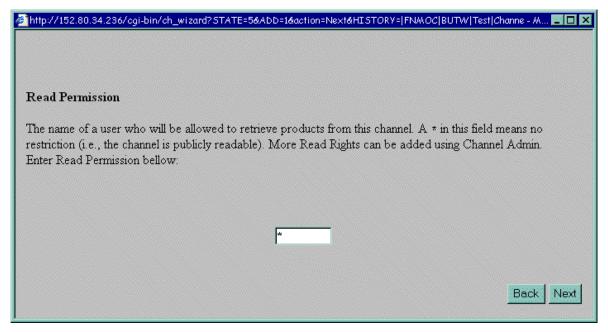


Figure 6. Channel Wizard Screen 6

This screen is used to establish read permissions for the channel. Enter the name of a user, or \*, in the entry box as directed. This is used to establish rights for only one user; to add more users, use the **Modify or Delete** option under the Channels heading on the main Channel Admin page. Click on the **Next** button to proceed to the final screen, shown in Figure 7, or the **Back** button to return to Screen 5.

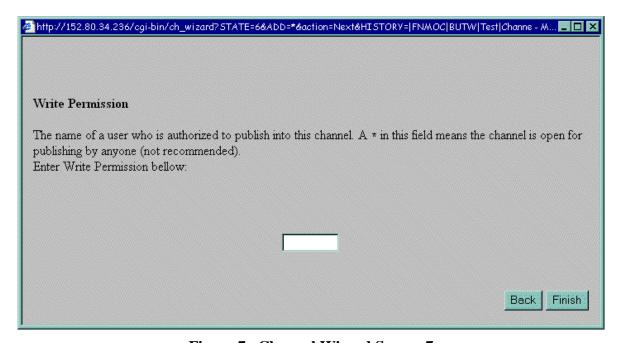


Figure 7. Channel Wizard Screen 7

The final screen of the Wizard is used to establish one user with write permission for the channel. To add write permission for more users, use the **Modify or Delete** option under the Channels heading on the main Channel Admin page. Click on the **Finish** button to complete the channel creation process, or the **Back** button to return to Screen 5.

#### 5.1.1.2 Creating a Channel Manually

The **Add** button under the Channels heading on the main Channel Admin page opens the page shown in Figure 7, which allows the user to make all entries for a new channel on one page. It is the functional equivalent of the Channel Wizard for more advanced users.

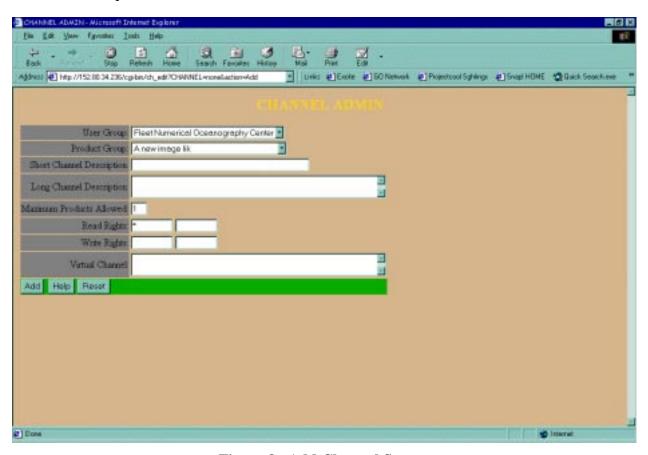


Figure 8. Add Channel Screen

- **User Group** defines the group of users who will be participating in the channel (publishing/reading). Selection is made from a pull-down list. To add a new user group, you must go back to the main Channel Admin page (use the browser's **Back** button) and use the **Add** button under the **User Group** heading (see Section 5.1.2 for details).
- **Product Group** defines the type of products that the channel will handle. Each product type has an entry in the *mailcap* file that tells the METCAST Client at the receiving end how to handle data downloaded via the channel. Selection is made from a pull-down list. To add a new product group, you must go back to the main Channel Admin page (use the browser's

**Back** button) and use the **Add** button under the **Product Group** heading (see Section 5.1.4 for details).

- **Short Channel Description** is used to enter a succinct description for the channel. Entry is made by typing into the text box.
- **Long Channel Description** is used to enter a more complete channel description. Entry is made by typing into the text box.
- Maximum Products Allowed defines the maximum number of products that will be allowed into the channel at one time. If 1 is entered, the product will be overwritten whenever a newer product is published into the channel. If 2 were entered, the last two products published into the channel would be kept, and so on.
- **Read Rights** should be a \* if everyone will have the right to retrieve products from the channel. It can also be a METCAST user name.
- Write Rights should be a METCAST user name or the METCAST user name of the Publishing Facility. Could be a \* but not recommended, as this would allow everyone to publish into the channel.
- **Virtual Channel** -- A virtual channel is the one that stores its content in a place other than the usual MDCHNL database, or one that requires a special processing of incoming content. For example, one may set a virtual channel for tropical cyclone warnings, MORIAH reports, or satellite imagery. These products are not normally stored in the MDCHNL database.

The **Add** button adds the channel defined by the entries on the screen to the Channels list. The **Help** button opens a help screen in a separate window. The **Reset** button resets all entries to the default values.

## 5.1.2 Creating a New User Group

A User Group is an organization which produces a variety of products, an installation for which products are produced, or a special support mission. Examples are: "Fleet Numerical Oceanography Center", "USS Juneau", and "Desert Storm". A new user group can be added in Channel Admin by clicking on the **Add** button under the User Group heading. This opens the Add User Group screen shown in Figure 9.

- User Group ID is the key to this User Group's database entry. Once set, this value can only be changed if this User Group is deleted and re-created. Most often the acronym of the publishing facility is used. Example: "FNMOC"
- **Description** can be changed and is only used to better identify the User Group. Most often the full name of the publishing facility is used. Example: "Fleet Numerical Meteorology Oceanography Center"

• Contact Info can be changed and is the address used to contact the User Group regarding their products. Most often the e-mail of a position within the Publishing facility is used. Example: "webmaster@fnmoc.navy.mil"

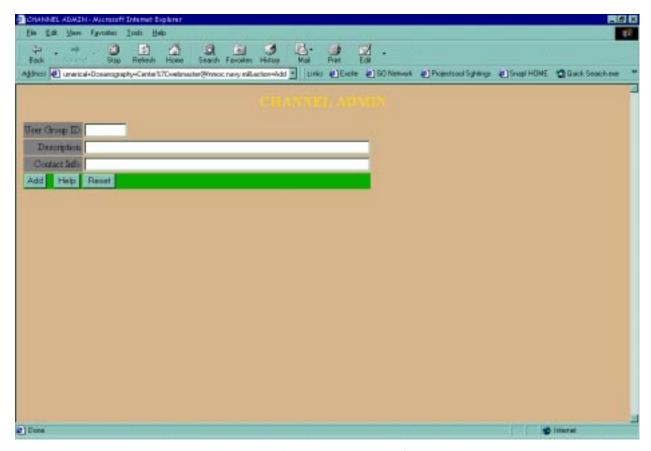


Figure 9. Add User Group Screen

All entries are made by typing in the entry boxes. The **Add** button adds the user group defined by the entries to the User Group list. The **Help** button opens a help window. The **Reset** button clears all entries.

## 5.1.3 Deleting or Modifying a User Group

The User Group currently selected in the User Group list box may be modified or deleted by clicking the **Modify or Delete** button under the User Group heading. This opens the dialog shown in Figure 10.

As mentioned in Section 5.1.2, the User Group ID cannot be changed. If you want to change a User Group ID, you must delete the User Group and create one with the desired new ID. The Description and Contact Info may be changed by simply typing new values into the boxes. The **Change** button changes the Description and/or Contact Info to the values currently shown in the entry boxes. The **Delete** button deletes the user group currently displayed. The **Reset** button resets all entries to their original values.

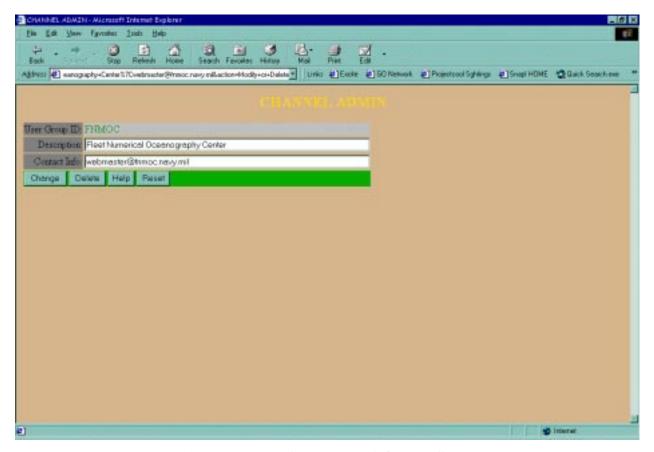


Figure 10, User Group Modify/Delete Screen

## 5.1.4 Creating a New Product Group

A Product Group is a collection of product types that need to be handled similarly by a METCAST Client. For example, you might create a PowerPoint product group that represented all PowerPoint slide shows. These would be assigned a common MIME type, and then users could configure their mailcap files to ensure that PowerPoint slide shows always were routed to PowerPoint for display. A Product Group is just a way to tell users at the Client end what types of data are in the channel and to give them enough information to decide how to handle the data when it arrives at the Client.

A new Product Group can be created by clicking the **Add** button under the Product Group heading in Channel Admin. This opens the screen shown in Figure 11, which allows the user to define the parameters for the Product Group.

- **Product Group ID:** Once set, this value cannot be modified, except by deleting and recreating the Product Group. This is the key to this Product Group's database entry. Most often the acronym of the product name is used. Example: "DMSP-IR"
- MIME Type: Once set, this value cannot be modified, except by deleting and re-creating the
  Product Group. MIME stands for Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension, a standard system
  for identifying the type of data contained in a file based on its extension. MIME is an Internet

protocol that allows the transfer of binary files across the Internet. This includes graphics, photos, sound and video files, and formatted text documents. MIME has to negotiate many different operating systems and types of software. The MIME type is identifies the product to the Client, which can then consult its mailcap file to find out how to handle the product. Example: "image/gif"

• **Description**: This entry can be changed and is only used to better identify the Product. Most often the full name of the product is used. Example: "DMSP IR satellite imagery"

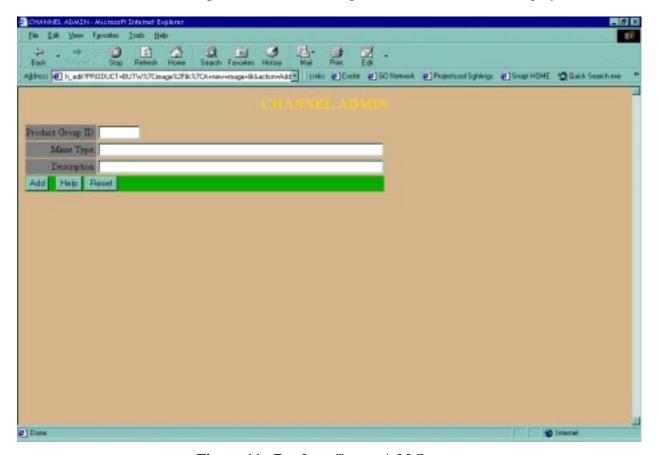


Figure 11. Product Group Add Screen

The **Add** button adds the Product Group defined by the entries to the Product Group list. The **Help** button opens a separate window displaying help on creating a new Product Group. The **Reset** button clears all entries.

## 5.1.5 Modifying or Deleting a Product Group

The Product Group currently selected in the Product Group list box can be modified or deleted by clicking on the **Modify or Delete** button under the Product Group heading. This opens the Product Group Modify/Delete screen shown in Figure 12.

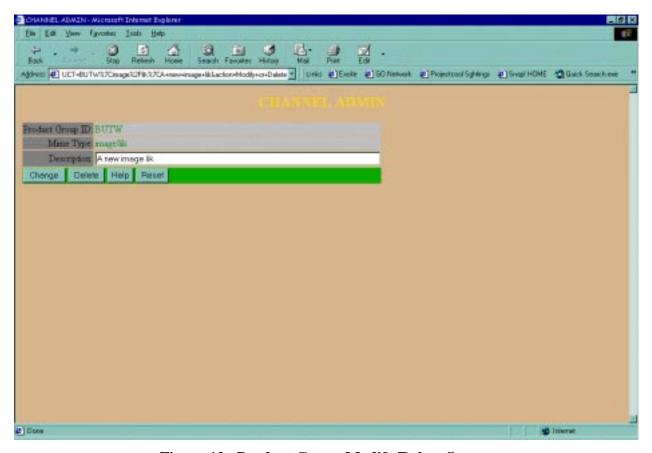


Figure 12. Product Group Modify/Delete Screen

As stated in Section 5.1.4, the Product Group ID and Mime Type cannot be changed unless the Product Group is deleted and re-created. The Description may be changed by typing a new description into the entry box. The **Change** button changes the Product Group information to the new values. The **Delete** button deletes the Product Group currently displayed. The **Help** button displays help in a separate window. The **Reset** button resets all entries to their original values.

## 5.1.6 Modifying or Deleting a Channel

To modify channel information, or to delete a channel, start by clicking the **Modify or Delete** button under the Channels heading. This opens the Channel Search dialog shown in Figure 13. This dialog is used to find the channel(s) to be modified or deleted.

A search may be done by User Group (gets all channels for the selected User Group), Product Group (gets all channels for the selected product type), Channel ID (gets the channel with the selected channel ID), or keyword (gets all channels whose descriptions contain the keyword(s) entered). The first three criteria are selected from pull-down lists; the keyword(s) may be entered in a type-in entry box. The **Select** button searches for and selects all channels matching your search criteria. The **Add** button opens the Channel Add dialog (see Section 5.1.1.2). The **Help** button opens a separate Help window. The **Reset** button resets all of the search criteria to their default values.

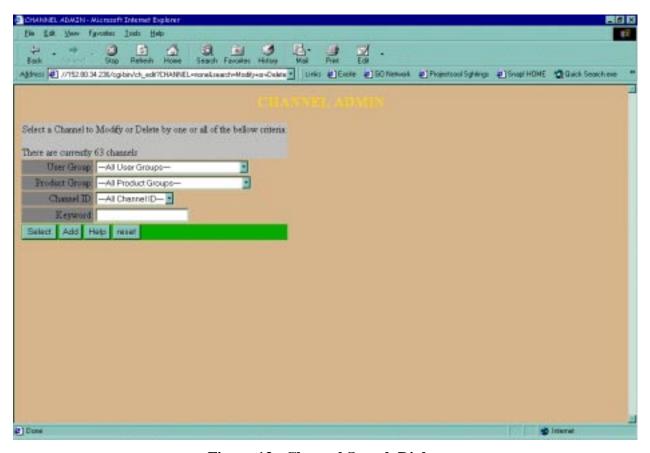


Figure 13. Channel Search Dialog

Clicking the **Select** button after setting the search criteria causes Channel Admin to search for and select all channels matching the specified criteria. Figure 14 shows the results of such a search.

This dialog displays all of the channels found that met the search criteria. For each channel, there are three option buttons:

- **Edit** opens the Channel Edit dialog (Figure 15), which allows editing of certain channel properties (those displayed in gray boxes may not be edited).
- Add Rights opens the Add Rights dialog (Figure 16), which allows addition or deletion of users' Read and Write privileges for the channel.
- **Delete** deletes the selected channel.

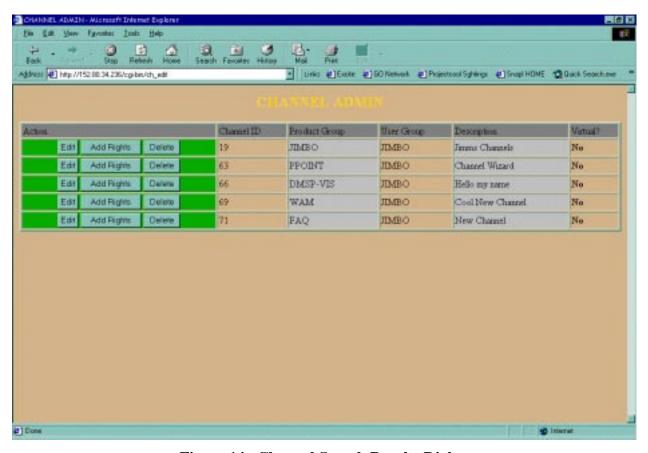


Figure 14. Channel Search Results Dialog

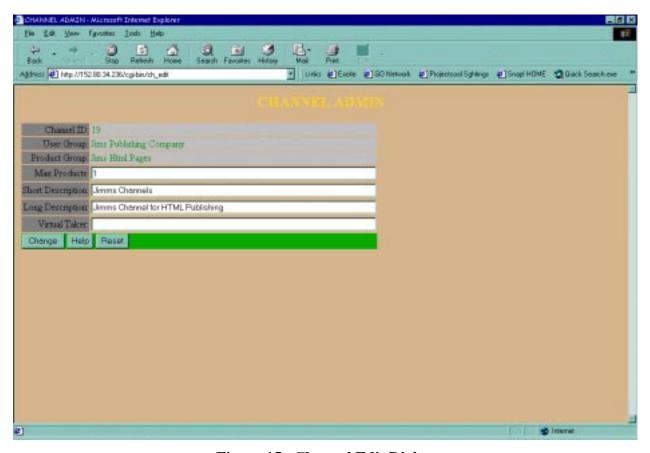


Figure 15. Channel Edit Dialog

In this dialog, the values in the white boxes may be edited (values in the gray boxes cannot be changed). The **Change** button changes the channel properties to reflect what is shown in the boxes. The **Help** button opens a separate Help window providing assistance in editing channel properties. The **Reset** button resets the entries to their original (unedited) values.

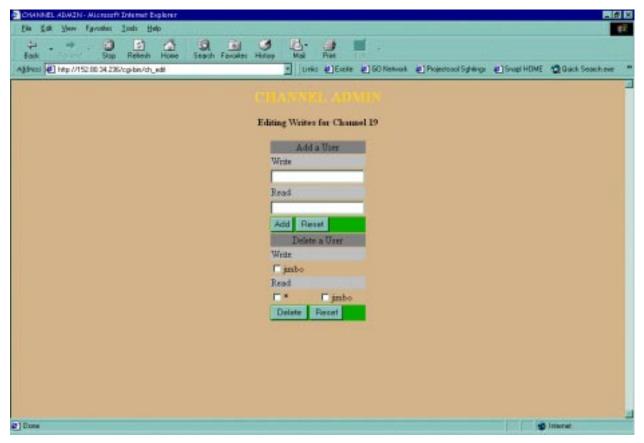


Figure 16. Add Rights Dialog

This dialog is used to add or delete user rights. You can grant a user rights by typing the user name in the Write and/or Read boxes and then clicking on the **Add** button. Granting a user Read privileges means that the user can read information that is in the channel. Granting Write privileges means that the specified user can publish information to the channel for others to view. The **Reset** button clears the entry boxes.

The Delete a User section displays the users granted rights to the channel. To delete a user, click on the check box next to the user name – an X will appear in the box when it is selected. Then click on the **Delete** button to delete the selected rights for that user. Separate check boxes are provided for Write and Read privileges. The **Reset** button clears all of the check boxes.

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## 6 NOTES

### 6.1 GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

COE Common Operating Environment

DII Defense Information Infrastructure

DoD Department of Defense

FNMOC Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center

HTML HyperText Markup Language

HTTP HyperText Transfer Protocol

IP Installation Procedures

MCSRVR METCAST Server Segment

MDCHNL METOC Channels Segment

MDMETC METOC Observations Database Segment

METOC Meteorology and Oceanography

MIME Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extensions

SPAWAR Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command

SUM Software User's Manual

SVD Software Version Description

TAC Tactical Advanced Computer

TEDS Tactical Environmental Data System

UM User's Manual

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# 7 DOCUMENTATION IMPROVEMENT AND FEEDBACK

Comments and other feedback on this document should be directed to the DII COE Hotline:

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